

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 5-14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 are pending in the application. In the present Amendment, claim 5 has been amended, claims 1-4, 15, 17, 19 and 21 have been canceled and new claims 22 and 23 have been added. Support for these new and amended claims can be found throughout the specification and the originally filed claims. Applicant has not introduced any new matter by the amendments.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone discussions of December 21, 2005 and December 23, 2005, concerning the claim amendments contained herein. Applicant has amended claim 5 to clarify the nature of the enclosure containing the plurality of beads. The enclosure is porous and contains the beads within its interior space, thereby surrounding and enclosing the beads.

Conclusions

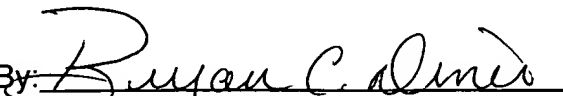
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, she is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-408-4116.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 27, 2005

By: 
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